

The Theaters—By Percy Hammond

"A Fantastic Fricassee," at the Greenwich Village Theater, Has Good Intentions, at Least

Jean White



Comedienne with "A Fantastic Fricassee," at the Greenwich Village Theater.

This "Fantastic Fricassee" at the Greenwich Village Theater last night was a pretty bad show. Its intentions were good; and search as you might through its extended contents for malice, all that you could find was innocent endeavor. Its purpose was not to annoy. The participants were young and eager to please. The program embraced many deserving phases of the art of the theater. So we should not be brusque in recording our opinion of it, and be content with saying merely that it was a pretty bad show.

"Bobby" Edwards, the village bard, was present, however, and with his ukulele managed to insert a sophisticated note in the otherwise town-hall proceedings. There were also ballets, danced by pretty youngsters, the eloquence of whose strange, irresolute limbs was impaired by the dirt which accumulated upon the soles of their hot feet and the caps of their knees. A dignified poetic drama by Maxwell Bodenheim and Ben Hecht was among the numbers. "The Master Poisoner," by name, a sinister affair in pleasing blank verse. But the elocutionists who recited it were timid, stiff and ill qualified to intone such casual speeches as "My little red mouth is as a gate to heaven," or "My beauty is as a wild, enchanting torrent."

The scene of a satire called "When the Dead Get Gay" was in a smart New York museum, with two cadaverous bodes emerging from their sarcophagi and engaging in stultid conversation about prohibition, Rector's Restaurant and the modern dances. The episode, with all its opportunities to be merry, was as dull as an obituary; for the dead, unhappily, did not get gay. There were marionettes, too, in an amusing burlesque of the chivalrous days entitled "Orlando Furioso"; and they split with Mr. Edwards such laurels as were permitted to divide.

Also upon the program of the revels, and aiding Greenwich Village to express itself, was "Jimmy" Kemper, an importation from Missouri, where he is a favorite. Mr. Kemper, very modest and propitiatory, a little frightened and pathetic, explained, with many appealing bows, that he had been seen in Kansas City by a friend of Mrs. Barker, the impressario, and had been lured to leave home and become an ingredient in her fantastic fricassee. A nice, homely boy, Jimmy, a bit unripe, with his imitation of grand opera, but susceptible to the improving urban influences. He said "chance" last evening for "chance," which is an encouraging indication; though otherwise he was "just folks." A helpful word should be said to this barefoot boy, for heartaches, perhaps, are at hand.

Gilda Shimmies in Ire, Crying "Burn Britannica!"

Casts Encyclopedia That Spoke Harshly of Baker Into Blaze, While Press Agent Cheers

You never can tell where patriotism will strike next. Now it's Gilda Gray chanting "Burn Britannica" to her servants and pleading for a bonfire of encyclopedias on every temple hill of America.

Theatergoers apparently never have appreciated the erudition and the spirit about her quivering shoulders as they watched her shimmy her way to glory. Ever her mother, little suspecting that the man who wrote the "Britannica," made the mistake of suggesting that her education might be advanced if she read the stories in the encyclopedia.

Last night, however, it appeared through her press agent that Gilda knew all about how Secretary Baker obeyed President Wilson and showed he was a good soldier, and how Rudyard Kipling got sore on the United States when he was laughed out of New Hampshire for not liking New England pie.

Any of Gilda's servants can tell you this, for they were all present when she told about it in the speech she made in the back yard of her home at Rockville Centre, before she cast the Britannica into the flames. They sat up talking about it most of last night, the part they liked best went something like this:

"I wish every American girl would follow my example. I'd like to see the country lighted up with burning Britannicas. The attack on our former Secretary of War in this British publication finishes the British for good. After that she gave out her new words for the tune of 'Rule, Britannia!'"

Death Truck Driver Held As Beer Barrel Is Found

Police to Analyze Contents of Cask Hurdled From Vehicle in Which Three Died

STAMFORD, Conn., Sept. 11.—Fredrick Neer, who drove the automobile truck from which ten persons were thrown yesterday, resulting in the deaths of three, was held without bonds today to await the coming of coroner J. J. Phelan. Gustave Engel, a former saloonkeeper, who gave the clambake at North Stamford yesterday which the ten men attended, was questioned by the police.

The police are inquiring to see if liquor was served at the clambake. A barrel of beer, it is said, was thrown out of the truck in the accident and is imbedded in the mud.

The police will get the barrel out and have its contents analyzed.

The men who died in the accident were Kenneth Grupe, of New Canaan; Frederick Brown, of Stamford; and J. A. Drennon, of New York. The others were injured, one seriously.

Motion Picture Operators Unite

Samuel Kaplan, president of the Moving Picture Machine Operators Local 808, announced last night that his organization had consolidated with the operators in Brooklyn and brought the latter into the American Federation of Labor. For five years his local has been working toward this end.

Elsie Janis Returns With Oldtime Vint to Vaudeville

Welcomed Uproariously, She Does 13 Impersonations at Palace Theater

Elsie Janis confided to the Palace audience yesterday afternoon that she liked to return to vaudeville now and then, and an enthusiastic audience attested that they like to have her. Smiling, girlish and as sweet as ever, she dances with abandon and gives imitations in her inimitable way.

In addition to the usual imitations of Sam Bernard and Ethel Barrymore, she gives clever impersonations of Eddie Foy and George Cohan in a Gallagher and Shearn number, Lenore Ulric and others. Most popular of all, though, is her adroit imitation of Fanny Brice—herself a popular idol of Palace patrons. And Miss Janis promises that by the end of the week she will have added Ted Lewis to the list.

The rest of the bill is pale in comparison except for the imitable Ted Lewis, whose band is held over for another week. Myers and Hanford appear in a clever musical and dancing act, the chief feature of which is the musical saw. But the big event of importance is the triumphal return of Elsie Janis. Though her antics are less acrobatic than the Ford dancers and Tom Patricola, who are on the same bill, she has more finish.

"Hollywood Inn" Hits Top Notes in Noise

"Sliding Billy" Watson Gives a Show at the Columbia That Splits Ears, but Not Sides

Rehearsals of "Hollywood Inn," "Sliding Billy" Watson's Big Fun Show, which was presented at the Columbia Theatre yesterday afternoon, must have been conducted in a wide open space in the hills with no attention paid to the possibility of strain on human ears or the rafters of a theater roof. Seldom has a noisier production come to this theater, nor has a chorus with more raucous voices been revealed.

A combination of screeching voices and fortissimo playing is not funny, and the producers of "Hollywood Inn" should reduce the lung power of the players considerably. The cast is not up to the standard set by other shows which have played at the Columbia this season. "Sliding Billy" Watson still has his slide, but little else, and he would lose it if he were to entertain. He needs new material, the production, in fact, needs a more connected and intelligent book. Above all, a moderation of the ear-splitting noises needed.

Bernard Plays "Abe Potash" Role 3,000th Time To-night

Barney Bernard, when the curtain rings down on "Partners Again" at the Palace Theatre to-night, will have been seen in his characteristic role of Abe Potash just 3,000 times. Mr. Bernard has been playing the character, first for the "Saturday Evening Post" by Monte Gleason, for nine consecutive years in five different plays.

The Stage Door

Avery Hopwood's comedy, "Why Man Leave Home," at the Morosco Theatre, and "Greenwich Village Follies" at the Apollo Theatre, Atlantic City, last night, will open at the Apollo Theatre during the week of the 24th.

Ina Claire made her debut under the management of Gilbert Miller, at the Apollo Theatre, in "The Awful Truth," by Arthur Richman.

The Shubert-Riviera Theatre opened its season last night with Frank Craven, in "The First Year."

Rehearsals of "The Love-Child," by Batelli, adapted for the American stage by Martin Brown, began yesterday. Sid Frederick Perry have the leading roles in the play, which will be presented by A. H. Woods, in association with Charles L. Wagner.

Doris Keane will begin rehearsing in "The Canine" to-day. She will begin her tour in Hartford on October 2.

Cecil B. De Mille's production of "Man of the Hour," from the novel by Alice Carter Miller, will come to the Rivoli on Sunday. Thomas Meighan, Lenore Ulric and Lola Macpherson have the leading roles. Jeanie Macpherson wrote the scenario.

Lucille La Verne, who was playing an important character part in "East of Eden," was injured by a fall last night. Katherine Lester Joy and Lola Macpherson will be in the play, which will open at the Rivoli on Thursday night, September 21.

Rehearsals of "Vera," the Russian play which Herman Bernstein adapted for the American stage, began last week under the direction of Ludwig Shapiro.

Norma Talmadge, in "The Eternal Flame," a photoplay version of Honoré de Balzac's "La Duchesse de Langeais," will be the feature picture at the Strand next Tuesday night.

Victor Herbert, composer of the score of "Orange Blossoms," is to conduct the opening performance at the Fulton Theatre Tuesday night.

Mae Devaevaux has been engaged by L. Lawrence Weber and William B. Friedman for their new revue "The Street Music," which opens at the Academy of Music, Baltimore, next Monday.

Sessue Hayakawa, the Japanese screen star, who is scheduled to appear soon on Broadway in a spoken drama, will arrive in New York early next week for rehearsals. Hayakawa is to appear in "The Leopard," which was directed by Gressac, a play which has as its background the Chinatown of a large American city.

Police Chiefs Arrive From 3 Continents

Convention Starting To-day Will Draft Plans to Catch New Crop of International Crooks War Produced

Crime Tools on Display

Scotland Yard Officer Has Himself Arrested to Try New York's Jail Methods

Several hundred police chiefs representing cities all over the United States and Canada, and capitals of South America and Europe will attend the second annual National Police Conference in the New York Chamber of Commerce assembly room at 9:30 this morning. The first regular session will be devoted to organization.

Delegates began arriving early yesterday, and by noon the corridors of the Waldorf-Astoria were crowded with "boss cops" from nearly every state in the Union, with a sprinkling of military-looking officials from foreign countries whose mustaches differentiated them from the native chiefs.

The delegates will be conveyed in automobiles this morning to the Chamber of Commerce which will entertain them at a luncheon to be presided over by President Irving Bush. At 2:30 there will be an address in the convention hall by Senator Stanley, of Kentucky, on "Industrial Conflicts, Their Underlying Causes and the Duties of Government." At 5 o'clock a dinner will be served aboard the White Star steamship Adriatic, docked at the foot of Seventeenth Street. P. A. S. Franklin, president of the line, will preside. At 7:30 Dr. Carleton Simon, head of the narcotic division of the Police Department, will address the gathering on "International Aspects of the Drug Traffic."

Officers at yesterday's brief session, besides Commissioner Enright, were Admiral A. C. Dillingham, U. S. N., retired, former director of public safety at Norfolk, Va., who is first vice-president of the conference; Second Vice-President Daniel J. O'Brien, chief of police of San Francisco; Chief of Police William Copeland, of Cincinnati; and Secretary Douglas I. McKay, Special Deputy Police Commission, of New York City.

Early Arrivals

Arrivals from abroad, so far registered, include Hakon Jorgensen, sub-director of the Copenhagen Police Department; Miss Ingeborg Helmer-Nielsen, finger print expert, and Erik Schaffer, military judge, who are delegated by the Chief of Police of Copenhagen. Another early arrival was Major Gen-

eral Llewellyn W. Atcherly, C. N. G., C. V. O., British inspector general of constabulary. W. E. Steneland, Police Commissioner of Victoria, B. C., arrived last night. Expected to-day and to-morrow are General Sir William Horwood, Scotland Yard; Sir Robert Peacock, chief constable of Manchester, England; Armand Naudin, Prefect of Police of Paris; August Keffer, Principal Police Judiciary of Brussels, and R. Zecocchetti, Prefect of Police of Rome.

The program was included, besides addresses by police officials, speeches by Thomas R. Marshall, former Vice President of the United States; Senator Augustus O. Stanley, of Kentucky, and Chief Magistrate William G. McAdoo.

The executive committee of the convention is William B. Mills, chief of police of Philadelphia; Peter F. Gilmartin, chief of police of Providence, R. I.; John F. Burdend, chief of police of Buffalo, N. Y.; Col. Charles P. Bour-land, director of safety of Norfolk, Va.; Philip T. Smith, chief of police of New Haven, Conn., and George G. Henry, chief of police of Baltimore.

Major General Sir Llewellyn Atcherly of Scotland Yard, one of the visitors to the convention, was arrested last night at his own request and spent ten minutes going through the routine of being booked and finger-printed.

The general was visiting the West Forty-seventh Street station and said to Lieutenant Harry Callahan, the officer in charge:

"I want to go through the full routine of a prisoner brought in here."

Lieutenant Callahan pressed a button and Patrolman William Taylor, who has supervision over the cell room, appeared.

"Please this man under arrest," the lieutenant ordered. The policeman obeyed, not knowing who he was arresting. He placed the General before the railing in front of the desk, Calumet, taking his pedigree. The famous Scotland Yard executive then was searched and a penknife, a fountain pen and a stickpin were taken from him. Taylor conducted him to a cell, where he remained for several minutes.

The next step was to the Detective Bureau, where the lieutenant took his finger prints. While he was under arrest, Lieutenant Callahan ordered General Atcherly to throw away a cigarette he was smoking, and he obeyed.

On leaving the station the general complimented Callahan and said that everything was admirably done. He thought, however, there should be a push button in each cell for emergencies and that the station should have a matron on duty at all hours.

Agreements Drafted

Important Anglo-American agreements are likely to be reached, it was said last night, between Commissioner Enright and General Sir William Horwood, of Scotland Yard, the British police center. In discussions of Anglo-American police relations during the recent visit of New York's police chief to London, it is said, a rough plan was drawn up, to be whipped into concrete form here.

A tentative scheme of co-operative action with other nations is ready to be placed before the convention. It was outlined by Commissioner Enright to police heads of London, Liverpool, Manchester, Paris, Brussels, Copenhagen, Vienna, Rome and Berlin during his recent tour abroad. All those consulted are said to have approved the plan in principle and to desire that a working agreement be reached.

Police Commissioner La Guardia and Chief Identification Commissioner Cheto, of Buenos Ayres, also are enthusiastic with regard to the plan. The

former pointed out that Buenos Ayres is visited by clever criminals from all climes because of its large, mobile population of wealthy travelers. Methods of co-operation between the police of Buenos Ayres, Rio de Janeiro and other important South American cities are described as lacking only system to make them effective. Commissioner La Guardia inclined to believe that operations of criminals who travel constantly from one capital to another, confidence men, card sharpers, diamond thieves and blackmailers, may be reduced to the vanishing point by close co-operation between principal police bureaus of the world.

The view held by Commissioner Enright and endorsed by principal police officials of foreign countries is that an entirely new criminal class, created by the late war, has grown up in every country, and that new methods are required to deal with them.

Crime Tools Displayed

Foreign visitors displayed keen interest in burglars' outfits and other items of criminal equipment in an exhibit by the safe and lock and bomb squads of the New York Police Department, which is in a large room on the second floor of the hotel.

Among the exhibits are kits of steel tools said to be the last word in tempering and finishing. Some are fitted in surgeons' instrument cases, others in violin boxes, motor rolls and brief cases. There are rope ladders of silk,

strong as a ship's cable, but capable of being packed in a small receptacle; also many types of bombs and explosive devices seized in raids on anarchists' nests.

The safe and lock squad exhibit presents an array of acetylene torches, high speed electrical drills, nitroglycerine injectors used in blowing safes and assortments of keys said to be adjustable even to the most intricate locks. One interesting feature of the display is an oil painting of a safe front complete to the most minute detail. This is used, the police say, by

burglars who are operating on the safe to convince the passing patrolman that all is well.

24 in Picnic Party Hurt

CLEVELAND, Sept. 11.—Twenty-four persons, fourteen of whom are children, were injured today when a light truck used as a passenger bus skidded and overturned on the east side of the city, near a critical condition. The party was turning from a picnic.

GREENWICH VILLAGE FOLLIES

Fourth Annual Production

SHUBERT THEATRE

Opening TO-NIGHT AT 8:30

Matinees Tomorrow and Saturday

Century Theatre, 42nd St. and Cent. Pk. West.

First Week—M. A. D. (Milk and Honey)

Second Week—M. A. D. (Milk and Honey)

Third Week—M. A. D. (Milk and Honey)

Fourth Week—M. A. D. (Milk and Honey)

Fifth Week—M. A. D. (Milk and Honey)

Sixth Week—M. A. D. (Milk and Honey)

Seventh Week—M. A. D. (Milk and Honey)

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